

Expanded Public Communication Plan

*Clarification on Page 32, Chapter 2, of the Brule River State Forest Master Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, May 2003. **Clarification in bold.***

The State Forest Superintendent will be the Department representative responsible for communicating the goals and management of BRSF as well as answering questions from the public regarding land management, recreation and law enforcement. The property manager will maintain a mailing list of persons or groups interested in receiving information about important management issues on the property. Mailings and news releases may be used to notify the public of significant developments on the property.

The Department will hold semi-annual meetings to discuss land management, recreation and law enforcement on the state forest, and explore possible options for cooperative projects. A spring meeting will be held the first Saturday after April 15 and a fall meeting the Saturday of Labor Day weekend. The spring meeting will focus on proposed timber sales to be let out for bid the following fall and the next spring. The fall meeting will focus on recreation and law enforcement activities conducted the previous summer and proposed for the next year. Both meetings will explore options for cooperative projects and other subjects of interest concerning management of the Brule River State Forest.

Approximately 30 calendar days—but no fewer than 21 calendar days—prior to each semi-annual meeting, the Department will post on the DNR Website for BRSF Master Planning (http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/master_planning/brule/) notice of the meeting and a draft agenda outlining proposed land management, recreation and law enforcement activities to be discussed at the upcoming meeting, as well as an explanation of any possible changes in planned management activities resulting from adaptive management. The website will also include a report of timber harvesting activity by area, to include: (1) the acreage and status of all harvesting activity including a reference to the legal descriptions of specific areas in which a harvest is planned, to be posted on or before the date the meeting notice and agenda are posted; (2) the cumulative total acreage established for sale for the plan period; and (3) the management objective that relates the activity to the BRSF Master Plan. During the meetings, specific timber harvest information by timber type will be available and Department staff will allow a reasonable time for discussion of additional BRSF related issues that members of the public ask to discuss.

For 30 calendar days following each semi-annual meeting, the Department will welcome and consider comments on any agenda items discussed at the most recent meeting. Due to workload constraints, the Department will likely not issue written responses to individual comments after the 30-day comment period has elapsed. However, the Department will update the BRSF Master Planning web site to reflect the Department's final decision on each agenda item. If the Department plans to act on any agenda item within the 30-day comment period, it will provide public notice of that fact.

The semi-annual meetings will include discussion of any management activities that may require a master plan amendment or variance pursuant to Chapter NR 44, Wis. Admin.

Code. NR 44.04 (1)(c) defines a master plan *amendment* as “a change in a management classification or subclassification of a property or management area within a property without a change in the goal and objectives for the property.” NR 44.04 (1)(d) defines a master plan *variance* as “a change in management activity or use described in the master plan that is consistent with the area’s land management classification and does not constitute a change in an objective for management or public use of the area as specified in the plan.”

In considering whether any proposed activity requires a master plan *amendment* or *variance*, the Department applies the NR 44 definitions on a case-by-case basis. In considering whether a master plan *variance* is necessary, for example, the Department will consider such things as:

- Whether a proposed management prescription differs from those described for a given area in the master plan;
- Whether a proposed management activity for an area is specifically listed in the master plan;
- Whether changes to short-term objectives are proposed, provided the long-term objectives would still be met.

For example, in the following scenarios, the Department would seek a variance:

- Damage from a naturally occurring event, such as a fire or windstorm or forest insects or disease, requires a salvage harvest that, although consistent with area objectives, exceeds or would result in exceeding the 15-year harvest level for an area as specified in the master plan.
- If experience demonstrates that to facilitate achieving the desired future condition for the area, the Department proposes a harvest that exceeds or would result in exceeding the 15-year harvest level for the area as specified in the master plan.
- The opportunity exists for a recreational project development not specifically identified in the plan.
- A catastrophic weather event requires closure, movement and reconstruction of a public recreation facility, e.g., a boat landing.